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Kingdom during the year 1896. The conclusions are based on the returns of the Board of Trade:—

Resulting from this close investigation of these figures it is seen:—

1. That the total trade of the kingdom, which in 1895 advanced in its declared value by £21,000,000, has now progressed by £36,000,000 more. Of this £25,500,000 is found to be due to increases in quantity, and £10,447,000 to have arisen from better average prices. The share in this growth belonging to the imports is £25,000,000, and to the British exports £14,000,000, subject to a reduction of £3,000,000 for a diminution in the re-exports, which, however, being so much less of the original imports removed to other countries, really means an addition to the value reserved for home use.

2. Of the £25,000,000 by which the value of the imports has increased, £18,000,000 represents an addition to the quantities and £7,000,000 the higher prices at which they are declared. Of the British exports the £14,000,000 is divided into £11,000,000 for quantity and £3,000,000 for price. Last year the order was very different, for, though the gain in quantities of both imports and exports was much greater in 1895, it was attended by an extensive lowering in prices, which brought the apparent growth below that we are now recording for 1896.

3. Of this increase in the imports, £9,000,000 is in articles for food and £16,000,000 in material for manufacture and manufactured goods, the quantities of food imports being £10,000,000, lessened by £1,000,000 decrease in price, that of the other division being £7,500,000 more for quantity and £8,500,000 for price. Of this latter, £6,000,000 is due to the one article of cotton-wool, a consideration which materially affects the extra price obtained for the exports.

4. Of the £11,000,000 increase in the British exports nearly the half is to be found in the class of metals and machinery, principally in quantity, £4,000,000 being due to iron in weight alone, nearly £2,000,000 to machinery, and as much more to manufactured articles. The £3,000,000 growth in value is wholly due to the rise in the price of the raw material, which is, indeed, more than this amount, decreases in food and coal having neutralized another £1,000,000.

5. It is not possible now to draw attention to the many other points of interest which the tables contain. They abundantly justify the expectations expressed a twelve-month since, and as the closing month of the year supplied fully one-fourth of the whole increase on the twelve, there is evidently as yet no check to the rising tide of trading progress.

STATISTICS OF VACCINATION.

At a meeting of the Royal Statistical Society, London, held February 16, a paper on “English Vaccination and Small-pox Statistics,

with special reference to the Report of the Royal Commission and to recent Small-pox Epidemics," by Mr. Noel A. Humphreys, was read. He arrived at the following conclusions (among others), based upon the figures discussed : —

1. That the mean annual death rate from small-pox at all ages in England and Wales, which was 408 per 1,000,000 in the twelve years for which records exist prior to compulsory vaccination, fell to 126 per 1,000,000 in the forty-two years since vaccination was made compulsory, which period included the world-wide epidemic of 1871-72.

2. That the main part of this decline of mortality occurred among children under the age of ten years, who may be presumed to have been principally affected by the increase of infant vaccination.

3. That the age incidence of fatal small-pox had entirely changed under the influence of increased infant vaccination ; and that small-pox, from being mainly a disease of childhood, was now proportionately more fatal to adults.

4. That, judged by the statistics of the last six principal local small-pox epidemics, the proportion of deaths of children bore a constant ratio to the proportion of children officially returned "unaccounted for" as regards successful vaccination.

5. That efficient infant vaccination conferred a practically complete immunity from fatal small-pox during the first ten years of life.

6. That the increase in the proportion of adult deaths from small-pox must be attributed to the waning of the protective effect in infant mortality, this hypothesis being corroborated by the steady increase in the proportional case-mortality of vaccinated persons in recent epidemics at successive age periods above ten years.

7. That both the small-pox attack-rate and the case-mortality was far lower at all ages among those who had been vaccinated in infancy than among the unvaccinated.

8. That the type of disease suffered by small-pox patients was far more severe among the unvaccinated than among the vaccinated ; and that the severity of the type appeared to vary with the number and quality of the vaccination marks.

9. That, judged by the statistics of small-pox hospital nurses and attendants, successful re-vaccination afforded practically complete protection to adults, even to those brought into acute personal contact with the worst forms of disease.